

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/626,965

Examiner

GWEN LIANG

Applicant(s)

OHASHI, TADASHI

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to Applicant's amendment filed on 6/3/2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1,2,4-11 and 14-16.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☒ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☒ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date 09192005.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date 09192005.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is responsive to communications regarding the applicant's amendment, filed on 6/3/2004.

Response to Arguments

2. Applicant's remarks filed on June 3, 2004 with respect to the agreement reached regarding the proposed amendment claims presented in the interview on 5/27/2004 have been fully considered and are persuasive in view of the applicant's amendment filed on 6/3/2004. Therefore, the objections, rejections under 35 USC 112, 35 USC 102 and 35 USC 103 have been withdrawn.

Drawings

3. The following changes to the drawings have been approved by the examiner and agreed upon by applicant: Figure 36 needs to be labeled as PRIOR ART. In order to avoid abandonment of the application, applicant must make these above agreed upon drawing changes.

INFORMATION ON HOW TO EFFECT DRAWING CHANGES

Replacement Drawing Sheets

Drawing changes must be made by presenting replacement sheets which incorporate the desired changes and which comply with 37 CFR 1.84. An explanation of the changes made must be presented either in the drawing amendments section, or remarks, section of the amendment paper. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). A replacement sheet must include

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all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of the amended drawing(s) must not be labeled as "amended." If the changes to the drawing figure(s) are not accepted by the examiner, applicant will be notified of any required corrective action in the next Office action. No further drawing submission will be required, unless applicant is notified.

Identifying indicia, if provided, should include the title of the invention, inventor's name, and application number, or docket number (if any) if an application number has not been assigned to the application. If this information is provided, it must be placed on the front of each sheet and within the top margin.

Annotated Drawing Sheets

A marked-up copy of any amended drawing figure, including annotations indicating the changes made, may be submitted or required by the examiner. The annotated drawing sheet(s) must be clearly labeled as "Annotated Sheet" and must be presented in the amendment or remarks section that explains the change(s) to the drawings.

Timing of Corrections

Applicant is required to submit acceptable corrected drawings within the time period set in the Office action. See 37 CFR 1.85(a). Failure to take corrective action within the set period will result in ABANDONMENT of the application.

If corrected drawings are required in a Notice of Allowability (PTOL-37), the new drawings MUST be filed within the THREE MONTH shortened statutory period set for reply in the "Notice of Allowability." Extensions of time may NOT be obtained under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 for filing the corrected drawings after the mailing of a Notice of Allowability.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

4. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

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Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mehdi D. Sheikerz on 29 September 2005.

The application has been amended as follows:

In the claims:

Replace claim 1 with the following text.

1. A component management system comprising:

a storage unit storing hardware and firmware related electronic information components as a hardware and firmware component knowledge database, each hardware and firmware related electronic information component being electronic information generated during processes including design, development, manufacture, and inspection, of a product,

wherein the hardware and firmware related electronic information components include at least one of a drawing of a hardware constituting the product, a firmware, a program, a specification, and a contract for the product, as the electronic information,

wherein said hardware and firmware related electronic information components as a variety of electronic information generated during the processes including the design, development, manufacture, and inspection of the product constitute a hierarchical structure in which the hardware and firmware related electronic information components are stored according to a numbering system common to both hardware

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and firmware electronic information components and added to each hardware and firmware electronic information component,

wherein said storage unit stores meta-information according to Extensible Markup Language (XML) data expressing the hierarchical structure of the hardware and firmware related electronic Information components and

wherein said hardware and firmware related electronic information components constituting said product are at a same management level;

a server which manages the hardware and firmware component knowledge database stored in said storage unit; and

at least one client, which is connected to said server via a network, and accesses a desired hardware and firmware related electronic information component from said hardware and firmware related electronic information components constituting the hierarchical structure based on the meta-information.

Replace claim 2 with the following text.

2. A component management device comprising:

a storage unit storing hardware and firmware related electronic information components as a hardware and firmware component knowledge database, each hardware and firmware related electronic information component being electronic information generated in processes including design, development, manufacture, and inspection, of a product,

wherein the hardware and firmware related electronic information components include at least one of a drawing of a hardware constituting the product, a firmware, a

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program, a specification, and a contract constituting the product, as; the electronic information,

wherein said hardware and firmware related electronic information components as a variety of electronic information generated during the processes including the design, development, manufacture, and inspection of the product constitute a hierarchical structure in which the hardware and firmware related electronic information components are stored according to a numbering system common to both hardware and firmware electronic information components and added to each hardware and firmware electronic information component,

wherein said storage unit stores meta-information according to Extensible Markup Language (XML) data expressing the hierarchical structure of the hardware and firmware related electronic information components, and

wherein said hardware and firmware related electronic information components constituting said product are at a same management level; and

a management unit managing the hardware and firmware component knowledge database by controlling a process of a client accessing a desired hardware and firmware related electronic information component from said hardware and firmware related electronic information components constituting the hierarchical structure based on the meta-information.

Replace claim 4 with the following text.

4. The component management device according to claim 2, wherein the meta-information comprises access limiting information related to permission/non-

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permission of access to each hardware and firmware related electronic information component, and wherein said client accesses the desired hardware and firmware related electronic information component based on the access limiting information only when said client gets permission.

Replace claim 7 with the following text.

7. The component management device according to claim 2, wherein said management unit sends a notice of revision to said client via said network when a hardware and firmware related electronic information component already stored in said storage unit is revised and sends a notice of new registration to said client via said network when a new hardware and firmware related electronic information component is registered in said storage unit, and wherein said client accesses said desired hardware and firmware related electronic information component at an arbitrary timing after said client receives the notice of revision or the notice of new registration.

Replace claim 9 with the following text.

9. A component development data management device comprising:
a storage unit storing hardware and firmware development data, including design, manufacture and inspection data, generated to constitute a product, as a component development knowledge database, wherein said hardware and said firmware development data, including the design, the manufacture and the inspection data, constituting said product are at a same management level; and

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a management unit managing the component development knowledge database by controlling a process of a client accessing the hardware and firmware development data, including the design, the manufacture and the inspection data from said storage unit via a network, and conducting communications for getting a permission of quotation of a catalog of parts constituting said product based upon the hardware and firmware development data, including the design, the manufacture and the Inspection data, with an author side client placed in the author side issuing the catalog and registering the catalog as a database in said storage unit when the management unit gets the permission.

Replace claim 10 with the following text.

10. A computer-readable recording medium recording a component management program controlling a computer according to a process comprising:

storing hardware and firmware related electronic information components as a hardware and firmware component knowledge database, each hardware and firmware related electronic information component being electronic information generated during processes including design, development, manufacture, and inspection, of a product,

wherein the hardware and firmware related electronic information components include at least one of a drawing of a hardware constituting the product, a firmware. a program, a specification, and a contract for the product, as the electronic information,

wherein said hardware and firmware related electronic information components as a variety of electronic information generated during the processes including the

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design, development, manufacture, and inspection of the product constitute a hierarchical structure in which the hardware and firmware related electronic information components are stored according to a numbering system common to both hardware and firmware electronic information components and added to each hardware, and firmware electronic information component,

wherein the storing comprises storing meta-information according to Extensible Markup Language XML) data expressing the hierarchical structure of the hardware and firmware related electronic information components, and

wherein said hardware and firmware related electronic information components constituting said product are at a same management level; and

managing the component knowledge database by controlling a process of a client accessing a desired hardware and firmware related electronic information component from said hardware and firmware related electronic information components constituting the hierarchical structure based on the meta-information.

Replace claim 11 with the following text.

11. A component knowledge system, comprising:
a programmed computer processor controlling the component knowledge system according to a process comprising:

generating, storing and managing meta-information by treating at same management level varyingly managed and related electronic information components that are hardware and firmware related electronic information generated in processes including design, development, manufacture, and inspection, of a product and include at

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least one of a drawing of a hardware constituting the product, a firmware, a program, a specification, and a contract constituting the product,

wherein said hardware and firmware related electronic information components as a variety of electronic information generated during the processes including the design, development, manufacture and inspection of the product constitute a hierarchical structure in which the hardware and firmware related electronic information components are stored according to a numbering system common to both hardware and firmware electronic information components and added to each hardware and firmware electronic information component, and

wherein the meta-information is stored according to Extensible Markup Language (XML) data expressing the hierarchical structure of the hardware and firmware related electronic information components and

controlling a process of a client accessing a desired stored hardware and firmware related electronic information component from said hardware and firmware related electronic information components constituting the hierarchical structure based on the meta-information.

Allowable Subject Matter

5. As allowable subject matter has been indicated, applicant's reply must either comply with all formal requirements or specifically traverse each requirement not complied with. See 37 CFR 1.111(b) and MPEP § 707.07(a).

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6. Claims 1, 2, 4-11, 14-16 are allowable in light of the applicant's amendment and in light of the prior art made of record.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

In independent claim 1, the limitation of "a storage unit storing hardware and firmware related electronic information components as a hardware and firmware component knowledge database ..., wherein said hardware and firmware related electronic information components as a variety of electronic information generated during the processes including the design, development, manufacture, and inspection of the product constitute a hierarchical structure in which the hardware and firmware related electronic information components are stored according to a numbering system common to both hardware and firmware electronic information components and added to each hardware and firmware electronic information component, wherein said storage unit stores meta-information according to Extensible Markup Language (XML) data expressing the hierarchical structure of the hardware and firmware related electronic Information components and wherein said hardware and firmware related electronic information components constituting said product are at a same management level", taken with the other limitations of the claim, were not disclosed by, would not have been obvious over, nor otherwise fairly disclosed by the prior art of record.

As to independent claim 9, the prior art of record does not anticipate nor suggest the limitation of "a management unit managing the component development knowledge database by controlling a process of a client accessing the hardware and firmware development data, including the design, the manufacture and the inspection data from

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said storage unit via a network, and conducting communications for getting a permission of quotation of a catalog of parts constituting said product based upon the hardware and firmware development data, including the design, the manufacture and the Inspection data, with an author side client placed in the author side issuing the catalog and registering the catalog as a database in said storage unit when the management unit gets the permission”, taken with the other limitations of the claim, were not disclosed by, would not have been obvious over, nor otherwise fairly disclosed by the prior art of record.

Independent claims 2, 10 and 11 contain the same allowable subject matter as identified in claim 1 above and therefore are allowed based on the same reasons stated above for claim 1.

7. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled “Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance.”


Contact Information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to GWEN LIANG whose telephone number is 571-272-4038. The examiner can normally be reached on 12:00 P.M. - 8:30 P.M. Monday and Thursday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, JOHN BREENE can be reached on 571-272-4107. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

29 September 2005
G.L.


Primary Examiner
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